

Mapping Symbology

In addition to geographic coordinates, most maps carry information about properties of geographic objects. Typically these properties are encoded using different points, lines, shapes, colors, and/or special symbols.

Helper's Guide

How to Prepare

Prepare a variety of paper maps containing different types of symbology. Enclosed set of example maps can be used if alternative is not available. Make sure that each explorer has access to at least three different types of maps.

Need to Emphasize

- Elements of symbology used to create geographic maps are subjective (depend on the taste and visual associations of the author).
- Map objects are represented by points, lines and areas or polygons.
- Color, size and shape of symbols communicate critical graphical information.

Related Links

- http://www.map-symbol.com/sym_lib.htm
 - <http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/teachers-packets/mapshow/>
 - Designing better maps-A guide for GIS users by Cynthia A Brewer.(ESRI Press)
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